

A
 REVIEW
 OF THE
 STATE
 OF THE
 BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, November 27. 1708.

IF the last *Review* be a needless Repetition of Arguments to press the Nation to unite among themselves, it happens to have an excellent Skreen from the Scandal of Impertinence, in the Speech made by the Lord Chancellor to the Parliament, in the Name of the Lords commission'd by her Majesty for the opening this Session, her Majesty's late Loss of the Prince not admitting her coming in Person to the House.

Now, tho' renewing the Occasion defends too plainly my frequent renewing the Exhortation, yet this excellent Speech is my abundant Justification; and tho' my Distance of Place at the Writing the last *Review* makes my Attempt something of a Risque in this censorious Age, and I re-

joyce in so unanswerable a Voucher to the Necessity of my Undertaking, yet I think the Circumstances of this Nation abundantly made it seasonable, and I am perfectly unconcern'd at the Reproach of the World.

Nothing can make my pressing the Nation to Union, and a Conjunction of Interests needless and impertinent; but being able to tell me, there are no Divisions, no projected Breaches, no Clashings of Interests and Parties, no underminings, envyings and plottings, to put out and put in, to set up and pull down, to break and to maintain among us; I have nothing to do with Parties, and GOD be thank'd, have no Hand in the Divisions on Foot, neither do I know the Drifts or Designs of any; but be they, *what,*

what, who, or on what Account soever, 'tis dividing of honest Men is the Subject, and whoever he be, that pushes on that wicked Design, and at this Time especially, without Fear of the Great, or Favour to the Many, I say, that Man is a Traytor to the general Tranquillity, and as far as in him lies, is accessary to the overthrowing the present happy Settlement of this Nation, and to the Opening a Breach for the Return of Jacobitism, Tacking, High-Flying, and all the mad Excesses of the Nations Enemies; he shakes the Succession, assaults the Union, undermines the Toleration, and tacitly encourages a second Invasion, for all these stand or fall, are encouraged or discouraged, supported or sunk, as we are or are not united among our selves.

I am not to be understood by this to reflect upon any reasonable Claims of just Regulations in the Conduct of this or that Party or Person, nor is the Clamour, some have rais'd at Mismanagements, at all touch'd at in this Discourse. Ay, ay, Gentlemen, as many Amendments of Errors, as many Detectings and Censurings of Mis-Conduct as you please; may all your just Complaints be heard, your just Requests be answer'd, your reasonable Schemes be follow'd; may every Knave be known, every Traytor be punished, every Mismanager be displac'd, always supposing you put honest Men in his Room; for it is not a Change of Knaves will help us.

But what's this to the Purpose in hand? What is this to National Breaches and Divisions? All this may be done calmly and moderately, and without dividing—— I remember, a great Man made a great Speech, and printed it, &c. as you have formerly heard, and told us, Nothing would help us but deposing the Ministry—— But what Ministry, the Party that Speech was made for, push'd at succeeding it, was well known—— And I name it on this Account, that it was not the Miscarriages they aim'd at, but the Men; not to mend the Management, but to get it into the Hands of a Party, who when they had it before, brought us all to the Brink of Mischiefe, and repin'd only, that they had lost the Spoils of the Nation.

Now if there are no Machines at Work to bring this about again, if there are no Attempts to divide us that these may come in, or if the coming in of this wretched Party is not the natural Consequence of dividing among our selves, then the Exhortation may be a needless Repetition: But if our united Interest is little enough to keep this vigilant Party out, if Court Whig and Country Whig, and all Sorts of Whigs are few enough to make up the Bank, and keep out the Flood of High-Flying Invasions, than a Caution to the Friends of this Settlement, to unite, to keep together, and shun all dividing Breaches, is both necessary and seasonable—— And while I think it the Duty of every Man, that respects his Country's Interest, to assist in so good a Work, I cannot but discharge my Part by pressing it in the most earnest Terms.

And pray, Gentlemen, will you reflect a little upon the great Work upon your Hands, upon the Hands of the Government, and upon the Hands of the Parliament at this Time; and let us examine,

1. Whether it is possible they can be gone thorough, if Party Breaches divide those who are otherwise sincerely bent to carry on the general Interest—— If we fall out about the Method, or the Manner, or the Persons to do the Work, how shall the Work it self be done?
2. If the great Work before us be not done, and thro' our Party Quarrels should fall in our Hands, what will be the Consequence in human Probability to this Nation?

And first for the Work it self which is now in hand; it consists of several Branches.

1. There is a terrible, an expensive, a hazardous War on Foot, with a bloody, a furious, and an exasperated Enemy, which has cost us near twenty Years Struggle, Blood, and Treasure, without Account, indeed not to be reckon'd up; this Enemy, if my Account does not deceive me, seems visibly declining,

clining, and the War plainly drawing to a Close, the long-desir'd Peace seems in View, the Prize just in our Reach; if this Campaign does not hand it to us, another in all Probability will bid fair for it.—Nothing can snatch this Prize out of our hand, nothing can defeat us of our Expectations, but our selves, our own Strife and Contention at home, stopping the Channel of our needful Support.

2. There is the Union of the two Kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland* into one *Britain*, to be maintain'd, cultivated, and improved; the National Prejudices to be removed, the National Animosities to be reconciled, and the National Differences, if any remain, to be made up; that either Part may feel the sensible Benefit of the great Transaction, which so much Difficulty brought about.
3. There is the Protestant Succession to be defended, due Provisions to be made against all its secret and open Invaders, and the Nation fortify'd against the Subtilty of those, who pretend Dissatisfactions on that Head.

These are no small Works, I think, I need not enlarge on the Consequence they are of to us; and what think ye, *Gentlemen Dividers*, can you carry on these Works in your dividing Circumstances? Can you push your private Designs, and let none of these suffer? Can you carry on all the boasted Projects of State-Revolution, and venture to say, these great Articles shall be in no Hazard? Is there need of all your Strength, or is there not? Is there Occasion of uniting together, or no?

I know not, whether I should suggest any of the mighty Schemes, some People in their Projects of a new Revolution of Politics have propos'd to themselves, Things so preposterous in themselves, that it would be to expose too much the Weakness of the Men.—But this I cannot but note, how angry some Men are, that they cannot push all into Confusion, and that they cannot put the *Whigs* upon Extravagancies. No, no,

Gentlemen, 'tis a Peculiar to your Party to run your selves a-ground, and ruin your Cause by Precipitations; your *Tackers* ruin'd Tacking, your Persecutors stranded their own Occasional Bill, your *Jacobites* precipitated their Fleet into apparent Disappointment.—But Precipitation is not a *Whig* Principle, their Moderation has been their Support, their Temper has been their Security, and their present Prudence will, I hope, be their Safety against all the Policy and dividing Principles of the State mad Men of this Age, let them be who they will.

Nor is an Exhortation against dividing among Friends any Bar against just Enquiries into Mismanagements at home or abroad, whether in Army or Navy, Court or Camp.—But may we not joyn in these Enquiries, in order to rectify them, and not break the publick Harmony of Things, on Pretence of detecting deficient Parts.

I know, it is grateful to this Age to be ever complaining, and the loud Clamourers at Government obtain the Applause they write for.—Look you here, Gentlemen, Time was, I complain'd as loud as any of you, nor would I be silent now, if I saw what I then saw, viz. A general Bent and Design to mismanage and to protect the Oppressions of the Subject against the Edge of the Law; but if no Offender is protected from the Law, then the Fault lies in those who do not prosecute, and no Man can complain, unless he has taken Legal Steps of Redress, and has found the Channel of Justice stop'd.

The late Turn in our Naval Affair—What shall we say to it?—For my Part I shall speak brief and plain; the Death of the Prince has oblig'd her Majesty to confer the weighty Trust of Lord High-Admiral of *Britain* on the Earl of *Pembroke*, a Choice to the general Satisfaction.

Either the Conduct of this new Admiral will effectually rectify all we complain'd of before, or tell us we complain'd of something before, more than we ought to have complain'd of; and I leave it to the Issue.